

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 /080 W

----- 018042

R 261316Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8824

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH LEBANESE FONMIN OFFICIAL

1. LEBANESE FONMIN DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL GEORGE KASSOUF CALLED ON CHARGE JULY 26 FOR ASSISTANCE IN VISA MATTER. HE SAID IT HAD TAKEN HIM TWO DAYS TO TRAVEL FROM EAST BEIRUT TO ZAHLEH VIA FARAYAH. CONVOY HAD OVERNIGHTED IN OUYOUN EL-SIMANE AND HAS BEEN FIRED ON DURING TRIP BETWEEN OUYOUN EL-SIMANE AND ZAHLEH. ONE MEMBER OF CONVOY HAD BEEN WOUNDED. KASSOUF SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO CHRISTIAN LEBANON VIA THE CEDARS-BCHARRE ROUTE WHICH WAS DIFFICULT BUT HE UNDERSTOOD SAFER.

2. KASSOUF SAID THAT LEBANESE FONMIN WAS NOW FUNCTIONING AS NORMALLY AS POSSIBLE IN ITS FORMER LOCATION AT PALAIS BUSTOS IN EAST BEIRUT. APPOINTMENT OF CHAMOUN AS FONMIN HAD REVITALIZED MINISTRY HE SAID. SECRETARY GENERAL NAJIB DAHDAH WAS OBLIGING ALL EMPLOYEES WHO COULD DO SO TO REPORT TO THE OFFICE EVERY DAY EVEN WHEN THERE WAS

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FIRING TAKING PLACE IN VICINITY. KASSOUF ESTIMATED THAT

THE FONMIN WAS OPERATING WITH LESS THAN 30 PERCENT OF ITS
PERSONNEL BUT IT WAS NONETHELESS IN OPERATION, SENDING OUT
TELEGRAMS, ETC.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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